



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Cal Fizer

**DETROIT MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO USING FAKE 1-800 NUMBERS TO
STEAL CREDIT CARD AND PERSONAL IDENTITY INFORMATION**

Terrence Berg, Acting United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, announced today that a Detroit resident, who used fake 1-800 numbers to steal hundreds of credit card numbers and other personal identity information, entered a plea of guilty to the charges of credit card fraud, mail fraud, and aggravated identity theft.

Mr. Berg was joined in the announcement by William Callahan, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Secret Service.

Cal Fizer, age 41, entered the guilty pleas in United States District Court before Judge Marianne O. Battani. Under the plea agreement, Fizer faces up to 95 months imprisonment and a fine of up to \$100,000.00.

Information presented to the Court at the time of the pleas showed that Fizer defrauded hundreds of individuals across the country by establishing false toll free telephone numbers, through AT&T, under the Black and Decker Corporation and its Dewalt Industrial Tool Company division, in order to obtain customer credit card and identity information, and used

that information to order merchandise. From on or about May, 2003, to on or about September 2006, over 42,000 calls were made to at least twenty-six different toll free telephone numbers established by Cal Fizer.

Acting U.S. Attorney Terrence Berg said, "Putting over 42,000 personal identities and credit card numbers at risk through a phony toll-free number scam is identity theft on a grand scale. I commend the U.S. Secret Service for their excellent investigation in this case." Special Agent in Charge Callahan stated, "Case Agent Brian Gallagher's exhaustive efforts illustrate that the agents of the United States Secret Service will thoroughly investigate, locate and arrest those in our community who commit acts of credit card fraud and identity theft."

According to information presented to the Court, individuals throughout the United States, seeking to purchase products from Black & Decker/Dewalt, obtained the fraudulent toll free numbers by calling national telephone directories.

When a customer placed a call to a fraudulent toll free number established by Fizer, they were connected to an individual who falsely represented themselves to be a customer service employee of Black & Decker.

During the conversation with the alleged customer service employee of Black & Decker, the customer would place an order for a Black & Decker product and provide credit card and identifying information to the alleged Black & Decker employee.

The Black & Decker customers who placed orders via the fraudulent telephone numbers usually did not receive the product(s) they attempted to order. Instead, the credit card number provided during the telephone call was fraudulently used by Cal Fizer, and/or individuals aiding and abetting Cal Fizer, to purchase Black & Decker products or other various products including, among other things, power equipment from Grainger Company and gift cards from various vendors.

The products ordered, using the fraudulently obtained credit card numbers, were shipped, at the direction of Defendant Cal Fizer and/or individuals aiding and abetting Cal Fizer, to addresses located in the Eastern District of Michigan.

During the course of the scheme, Defendant possessed both the credit card numbers and sometimes the social security numbers of the victim individuals across the country.

A sentencing hearing was set by Judge Battani for March 26, 2009 at 2:00 pm.

This case was investigated by the the United States Secret Service and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sarah Resnick Cohen.